GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3638
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2017
Water Resources Developmental Projects
Kharge Shri Mallikarjun

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the impact of the recommendations of the various studies on existing and proposed water resources development projects for utilization of surface water for purposes including drinking, irrigation, hydropower development and inter-linking of rivers and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(b) whether the Government has consulted the States in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the response received therefrom and the follow up action taken in the matter so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) carried out evaluation of AIBP Projects through 10 reputed organizations/consultants with WAPCOS appointed as coordinator to assess proper utilisation of funds, management system, benefits accrued such as irrigation potential created/utilised, bottlenecks in implementation and to suggest improvements for speedy completion of projects under AIBP and early accrual of benefits.

Further, MoSPI conducted a study to assess the utility of AIBP and submitted the report to MoWR in July,2006. As per the reports the outcome of the scheme is " Central Assistance in AIBP projects has helped acceleration in project implementation, creation and utilization of irrigation potential. It has also led to provision of quality irrigation in time leading to higher cropping intensity, crop productivity, employment and income generation in the command areas. Economic and social returns to public investment under AIBP are reasonable justifying such investment. AIBP investment has minimized drought impacts, protected areas from high floods and provided drinking water and hydro electricity in multi-purpose projects. In many projects irrigation has recharged aquifers in and around the command areas increasing groundwater levels for additional irrigation and other uses."

Planning Commission constituted a Steering Committee and eight Working Groups related to water resources and sanitation for XII Five Year Plan. The Working Groups inter alia, include the Working Group on "Major & Medium Irrigation and Command Area Development (MMI & CAD)". This Working Group on MMI & CAD duly mentioning its Terms of Reference has been constituted by the Planning Commission vide Letter No. 25(1)/A/2010-WR dated 15.10.2010.

The "Working Group on Major and Medium Irrigation and Command Area Development" has also submitted in its reports " the assessment of AIBP impacts and a Proposal for Change" for the continuation of Scheme from time to time. As per the Report of Working Group for the 12th Five Year Plan, "AIBP has been a very successful programme in enhancing irrigation potential in the country is evident from the fact that the irrigation development in major/ medium sector which was about 2.2 Mha per plan till VIII plan increased to 4.10 Mha per plan during IX plan subsequent to introduction of AIBP as a support mechanism and has further increased to 5.3 Mha in X plan".

The Working Group recommended in its report that in respect of major and medium irrigation projects, the focus should be on (a) full utilization of created facilities, (b) improving water use efficiency, and (c) completing as many ongoing projects as possible for which the ongoing projects should be prioritized. In order to achieve these objectives, the central assistance should be used to incentivize and encourage States to adopt and implement an aggressive MMI management reform agenda and action plan. In view of focus of the MMI sector during XII Plan on reducing the gap between IPC and IPU and completion of ongoing projects, new MMI projects should be provided central assistance either on completion of ongoing projects or to address specific important regional challenges.

To maximise the benefits, the guidelines for such funding are being revised from time to time in order to widen the scope of funding as well as to allow special consideration for the regions lagging behind in development, which presently include north-eastern states, hilly states, drought prone and tribal areas. Kalahandi, Balangir, Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa, states with lower irrigation development as compared to national average and districts identified under PM package for agrarian distressed districts in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. At present, the latest modification in AIBP guidelines was made in October, 2013. As per the new guidelines, the pari-passu implementation of Command Area Development (CAD) works was given more focus for the potential utilization and relaxation for Desert Area Development Programme (DADP) has also been introduced".

Further, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched by Govt. of India in 2015-16 with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices etc. The programmes as being implemented by the Govt. of India, viz Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programmes (AIBP), Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) and Command Area Development and Water Management

(CADWM) have been subsumed in PMKSY. Under the scheme, 99 Major and medium irrigation (MMI) projects have been prioritised among the 149 ongoing MMI projects under AIBP and these projects are being funded under PMKSY-AIBP. A special funding window has been created in NABARD which could be utilized by the Centre and State Governments to bridge the requirement of funds for completion of the 99 priority projects including CAD works.

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